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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,256	07/11/2001	Hisashi Ichimura	2001-0969	8989

513 7590 04/17/2003

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, PREETI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1751	

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Advisory Action</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/902,256	ICHIMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Preeti Kumar	Art Unit 1751

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 31 March 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a)  The period for reply expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b)  The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1.  A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2.  The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
  - (a)  they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
  - (b)  they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
  - (c)  they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
  - (d)  they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): none.
4.  Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5.  The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Attached.
6.  The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7.  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 17-28.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: none

8.  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9.  Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
10.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION*****Response to After-Final Response***

1. The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed March 31, 2003 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 17-28 based upon the prior art rejection with Hojo et al. (US 5,824,113) as set forth in the last Office action because the declaration is not commensurate in scope with the material limitations of the instant claims. Specifically, the declaration is not commensurate in scope with the material limitations of independent claim 17. The instant claim recites an animal fiber having scales and being oxidized to a specific degree, having a specified absorption band, and specified shrinkage rate and other properties that are not illustrated or mentioned in the evaluation provided in the declaration. The evaluation of the fibers is based solely on the observation of scales, water repellency, and existence of epicuticle layer. Thus, the declaration is not commensurate in scope with the material limitations of the claims.

Also, the declaration is defective in that it states that Sample 2: is a modified wool sliver treated according to example 3 of the present application. However, the examiner notes that example 3 is not found in the present application.

Furthermore, table 1 and figure 3 in the declaration illustrate three samples of wool fiber, however it is not seen how the present invention is novel or different over the non-treated wool fiber. Also, the magnification of the epicuticle layer illustrated in the images in figure 3 are not provided. Thus,

drawing conclusions from these images is improper and further, it is not seen how the present invention is novel or different over the non-treated wool fiber.

***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Preeti Kumar whose telephone number is 703-305-0178. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra N. Gupta can be reached on 703-308-4708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-872-9309.

Preeti Kumar  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1751

PK  
April 16, 2003

*Lorna M. Douyon*  
LORNA M. DOUYON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER